## Bureau of Land Management News Release

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COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT COTTONWOOD FIELD OFFICE Route 3, Box 181 Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Comments Sought on Management Plan for BLM Lands in the Cottonwood Field Office Planning Area

Cottonwood, Idaho – The Bureau of Land Management announces its intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for 144,430 acres of public lands administered by the BLM Cottonwood Field Office. These lands are located in Adams, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties on the southern portion of the panhandle of Idaho. When completed, this plan will describe broad, multiple-use guidance for managing public lands in the planning area.

BLM will also prepare an environmental impact statement to assess environmental, social and economic effects of different management alternatives. A preliminary list of issue themes to be addressed in the plan includes vegetation management; fire management; management of habitat for wildlife and special status species; management of transportation, public access, and recreational opportunities; land tenure adjustments; availability and management of public lands for commercial uses; management of areas with special values; and tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities.

The BLM is seeking input on concerns the public may have regarding the BLM-managed lands for consideration in the development of alternatives for the plan. You may submit comments until November 15, 2004 by any of the following means: (1) by email to <a href="mailto:comments@cottonwoodrmp.com">comments@cottonwoodrmp.com</a>, (2) by mail to Cottonwood RMP, c/o Tetra Tech, Inc., 4900 Pearl East Circle, Suite 300W, Boulder, CO 80301; (3) by fax to (720) 406-9114; (Attn: Cottonwood RMP); or (4) by completing the online comment form on the project website, <a href="www.cottonwoodrmp.com">www.cottonwoodrmp.com</a>.

The BLM has scheduled three open-house style meetings to gather input for this planning process. All meetings will be held from 5:30-7:00 PM:

- Riggins Monday, November 1, 2004, Heritage Center, 109 South Street (behind Crumps Chevron);
- Grangeville Wednesday, November 3, 2003, National Guard Grangeville
  Armory, 105 Northeast 4<sup>th</sup> Street; and
- Lewiston Thursday, November 4, 2004, Lewiston Community Center, 1424 Main Street.

For additional information or to be added to the official Cottonwood RMP mailing list, please contact Ms. Carrie Christman, Assistant Field Manager, BLM, Cottonwood Field Office, at (208) 962-3793, email to <a href="mailto:information@cottonwoodrmp.com">information@cottonwoodrmp.com</a>, or visit the project website at <a href="https://www.cottonwoodrmp.com">www.cottonwoodrmp.com</a>.